

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television.



News briefs

CFC

With a few more weeks remaining until the Dec. 8 deadline to contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign, Spangdahlem Air Base has raised more than \$188,000. For people who want to contribute, contact unit representatives or 1st Lt. Jim Marsh at 452-6690.

Cancer donations

An account has been established at Community Bank to assist Cindy Smith with the costs of medical treatments for lung, liver and spleen cancer.

Smith is a six-year, second grade teacher at Spangdahlem Elementary School. She's a single parent with two daughters in college. She's currently in Nebraska receiving chemotherapy treatments.

For more information, call Barbara Triplett, SES guidance counselor, at 452-6881.

Prohibited mail items

MANNHEIM — Poisons and switchblade knives don't make great Christmas gifts. It's also illegal to mail them to the United States. People who mail salami could be fined \$100 because fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and meat products, and soil are banned since they could contain foreign pests or diseases.

Absinthe, Cuban cigars, liquor, lottery tickets, narcotics, dangerous drugs, obscene articles and publications, handguns and hazardous articles such as fireworks or flammable materials are also outlawed.

"You are smuggling if you put prohibited items in the mail without listing them on the customs mail declaration," said Michael L. Burkert, program manager at the Customs Executive Agency in Mannheim.

The U.S. Customs Service and the Department of Agriculture seize prohibited items even if they are declared and may fine people sending them.

Remember these rules when making up your Christmas shopping list. Call a military

See Briefs, Page 3

Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 44

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Nov. 24, 2000



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Exercising precision

Senior Airman Wesley Schaffron, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, inserts a fuse into an MK-84 bomb during last week's Local Salty Nation exercise. For more on the exercise, turn to Page 3.

Air Force announces plan to select NCOs as recruiters

WASHINGTON — Taking a page from the other services' recruiting duty selection process, the Air Force is ending its all-volunteer recruiter system and adopting a selection-based program.

The Air Force is embarking on a "cultural shift" that will bolster its recruiting force and make recruiting duty an integral part of nearly every NCO's career path, according to Air Force officials. The program is aimed initially at staff sergeants (and selects) through master sergeants with less than 16 years in service. All career fields will fall under the new policy. The first group of people selected will be named by March 2001.

"While the all-volunteer system served us well in a less

competitive environment with fewer recruiters, it can't sustain the number of recruiters with the necessary skills we need to meet our future requirements," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.

The Air Force is seeking to place 1,650 recruiters in the field by August 2001. It currently has approximately 1,364 recruiters.

"We realized one of the key issues we faced is the number of recruiters we have in the field," said Brig. Gen. Paul Hankins, director of the Recruiting and Retention Task Force at the air staff. "This is a significant challenge right now. If you don't

See Recruit, Page 2

Uniform wear policy changes for USAFE travelers

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The U.S. Air Forces in Europe guidance on wearing uniforms while on temporary duty within the CONUS changed recently, primarily affecting senior officers and command chief master sergeants.

"I request all colonels and above and all command chief master sergeants to wear a blue service uniform combination (with tie or tab) while traveling TDY at government expense on flights that begin and end within the CONUS," said Gen. Greg Martin,

USAFE commander.

"The chief of staff of the Air Force has reminded us," he said "that 'we are all recruiters,' and I believe wearing our uniform while traveling on official duty will offer invaluable opportunities to showcase our Air Force to many of our citizens who might otherwise miss the chance to interact with our dedicated members."

This guidance applies only to situations when wearing the uniform ensures a professional Air Force image is portrayed.

"Wearing the uniform while on leave is optional, but strongly encouraged," Martin said. "All other USAFE personnel are also encouraged to wear the uniform during official CONUS TDYs and while traveling on leave."

Keep in mind, however, Air Force Instruction 36-2903 requires Air Force members wearing a uniform while traveling to wear a service uniform combination with tie or tab.

Due to force protection considerations

overseas, a service member shouldn't wear the uniform while traveling commercial to, from or within overseas locations. Military members must consult the Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide for uniform wear travel restrictions when traveling overseas.

This policy took effect Nov. 14, but only remains so during THREATCON Alpha or lower conditions. (USAFE News Service)

Recruit

Continued from Page 1

recruit enough of the right people with the right skills, the Air Force will have a hard time meeting its mission in the future, which is why we need to get our best NCOs out as recruiters as soon as possible."

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch said, "Recruiting, like any other special duty, provides a much broader perspective of the Air Force, and to the men and women who actually go and perform that duty, they learn things about the Air Force that certainly help them when they become senior NCOs."

Hankins said the forced drawdown in the past decade also included a reduction in the number of recruiters in the field.

"They were still able to meet their goals because the number of accessions was reduced to aid the drawdown and military service held strong as a viable opportunity for youth," he said.

"However, as the economy grew stronger and the force stabilized, it became more difficult to meet goals with the number of recruiters we had in the field, a number that dropped as low as 890 just 18 months ago.

"The recruit-the-recruiter team went out to bases and organizations and tried to convince people to volunteer to become recruiters, but we couldn't get the number of volunteers necessary to sustain or to grow the recruiting

force fast enough."

Under the new process, he said, "If you are nominated and selected to be a recruiter, that means you've been identified by a lot of people as being a cut above your peers."

The selection process will follow these general procedures:

■ Air Force Personnel Center officials will conduct an initial screening of records for those NCOs in the target population meeting select quality force standards to compile an initial candidate list.

■ AFPC will forward names via personnel message to all command levels and outline procedures for commanders, first sergeants and supervisors to conduct a quality force and personal evaluation and make a recommendation on each candidate's suitability for recruiting duty.

■ The refined candidate list will then be forwarded to the AFPC and Air Education and Training Command. The center will begin posting available locations on the EQUAL Plus listing around mid-January. Candidates on the list will have the opportunity to volunteer for specific openings via EQUAL Plus and AFPC will make every effort to place them at those locations. AFPC will then fill all remaining vacancies from the candidate pool.

■ Candidates who are identified to fill a vacancy will be directed to take the

Emotional Quotient Index which will further determine if they have the necessary aptitude and "skill sets" to be a successful recruiter.

■ Candidates will then undergo a final suitability check along with appropriate medical and credit checks before final assignment selection.

■ Those not initially selected for recruiting duty will remain on the candidate list from which AETC and AFPC will continue to select the next generation of recruiters.

NCOs on the candidate list will be able to volunteer for specific locations if they desire; however, failing to volunteer does not mean they will avoid selection, according to Hankins.

"It is expected there will be some NCOs selected who don't volunteer for specific locations," he said. "AFPC and MAJCOMs will work together to ensure individual units or career fields are not adversely impacted by these selections."

This pool will be continually changing as people get promoted or move in and out of the eligibility window, according to Hankins. AFPC plans to release the initial list to commanders this month.

"We want people to understand that they're going to be part of a large pool of people selected as candidates for recruiting," he said. "However, that doesn't mean they will necessarily be picked for recruiting duty.

A list of available recruiting assignments will go out each cycle and people in the candidate pool can either volunteer for one of the assignments or they can wait to see if they are selected.

"There are only so many recruiting assignments that will come open each year, against a pool of several thousand people. Obviously, if no one in the candidate pool volunteers to take one of the assignments, a person will then be selected," Hankins said.

Once recruiters complete their recruiting tour, they will then return to their primary career field.

According to Finch, this new policy follows a two-part approach. "First, we focus on selecting the best people for recruiting duty, and second, these people will be better prepared as leaders tomorrow.

"If we explain the process and the intent, focus on the benefits, and encourage our best and brightest to go into this duty, we'll be fine," Finch said. "We've used the all volunteer system to start our process in the past. However, there are a lot of people who would do a great job if someone simply asked them to do it."

Under the new policy, Ryan and other senior leaders see recruiting and other special duties becoming an integral part of nearly every NCO's career. (Air Force Print News)

Accidents

By TSgt Franklin McElhaneey
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Four major accidents took place on B-50 this week.

The first accident took place between the towns of Metterich and Albach. An American driver lost control of the vehicle, hit a pole, and rolled the car. There were no injuries.

The three other accidents happened on B-50, but limited details are available because they are under investigation. These accidents took place at the B-51 and B-50 intersection in Bitburg, at the B-50 and KirchStrasse intersection in Binsfeld, and on B-50 between the towns of Dudeldorf and Metterich.

In addition, there were eleven minor accidents totaling \$5,050 in personal cost. Eight of these accidents occurred because of wet roads.

There has been an increase in people driving onto the base while not wearing a seatbelts. Plan ahead when traveling to the base by placing identification cards in an accessible place when heading out.

People who must remove their seat belt to access identification cards should wait until they come to a complete stop at the base gate.

Last year's first snowfall began shortly after Thanksgiving. Twenty-four accidents within 48 hours were all related to slick roads caused by the snow and black ice. People should ensure they have proper tires mounted on their vehicles and adjust their driving speed for conditions.



Maj. Mike Young

In honor

Members of the 86th Airlift Wing Honor Guard from Ramstein Air Base stand ready before a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Lorraine American Cemetery in France. The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains more than 10,400 graves in the cemetery of soldiers who died in Europe during World War II. The ABMC will add the National World War II Memorial to its registry upon completion. Visit www.usabmc.com for more information about the ABMC and the memorial.



Exercise participants "enjoy" suiting up in chem suits.



Airman 1st Class Robert Palmer and another member of the 606th Air Control Squadron check the indicator gauges on a radar van. The 606th ACS set up on the alternate landing recovery area of the flightline for last week's Local Salty Nation exercise.

Local Salty Nation



Airman 1st Class Adrian Nuncio, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, guards his post near the 606th Air Control Squadron compound during the Local Salty Nation last week.

Silhouette by Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

customs office to find out more or visit the military customs Web site at www.hqusaureur.army.mil/~no_hyphen/opm/customs.htm.

Vehicle auction

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is accepting bids on two 1996 government vehicles, a Ford Aerostar and a Dodge Stratus. Vehicles are being sold as is with no guarantee, expressed or implied, to the value, condition or roadworthiness, according to AAFES officials.

Minimum bid is \$4,000 each. Sales are awarded to the highest bidders. Sealed bids must be received by the close of business Dec. 1 at AAFES administration, building 2001 on the Bitburg French caserne.

For more information or to inspect vehicles, call Richard Talbot at 453-6076.

Bank hours reduce

Community Bank opens Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Spangdahlem and 9 a.m. to noon on Bitburg because of staff training.

Credit union phone number

Service Credit Union on Spangdahlem offers a new civilian telephone number, 06565-956950, for people to call with banking questions or issues.

Food sales

A base organization recently had to completely change the menu offered in a base-wide sale of barbecue foods because it didn't get prior approval from public health.

Organizations selling animal-origin foods for fundraisers should call Staff Sgt. Dante Pawa or Senior Airman Keisa Jackson at 452-8308 for approval process information.

Haircut price increase

Military members across Europe, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will pay more for a haircut beginning Dec. 1 at the 113 barbershops under contract with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

The 25-50 cent increase, the first since October 1998, reflects an initiative designed to keep enough qualified barbers employed to serve AAFES customers, said Maj. Mitch Edgar, with AAFES Europe headquarters. The increase also supports the growing needs of the many contractors providing barber service.

AAFES established haircut prices based upon local price surveys and a review of prices at posts and bases located in the United States. With the increase, haircuts in Germany go up from \$6.25 to \$6.50; in Belgium from \$5.50 to \$6; in the Netherlands from \$6.50 to \$6.75; and in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from \$4.50 to \$4.75.

Desert mail

Saudi Arabian customs officials who screen all U.S. mail flowing into Prince Sultan Air Base are confiscating any Santa Claus related items, according to Lt. Col. Michael McCullough, 363rd Expeditionary Communications

Squadron com-mander.

As a result, people are asked not to send these items, including gift-wrapped items with Christmas designs. Confiscated items aren't returned.

Extended commissary hours

Beginning Thursday, the Spangdahlem com-missary extends its operating hours to 8 p.m. each Thursday.

The changes is a result of recommendations provided by focus group participants during a recent meeting at Bitburg, said Kenneth Mitchell, Eifel commissaries director.

AADD e-mail

Airmen Against Drunk Driving established an e-mail account for people to use when volunteering as drivers or charge-of-quarters. To volunteer, send e-mail to aadd@spangdahlem.af.mil. For more information, call Senior Airman Michelle Almarode at 452-6656.

Bill payments

The government travel card offers a split disbursement feature allowing members to designate a specific dollar amount from the proceeds of a travel voucher to be sent directly to Bank of America to pay the balance.

Members can also request interim monthly payments to be sent to Bank of America when on extended TDYs greater than 45 days.

To take advantage of this feature, check the split disbursement block and list the amount to be sent on the travel voucher.

AF modifies security forces beret wear policy

Only trained Air Force security forces members are now authorized to wear the distinctive blue beret, reversing a more inclusive policy in effect at security forces units for the last three years.

The beret, which has been a symbol of police authority in the Air Force since 1975, was authorized in 1997 for wear by all members of security forces units, including non-SF trained people in support positions. However, the change in policy has little to no effect on the 52nd Security Forces Squadron as its first sergeant, information managers and other support members opt not to wear the beret, said Capt. Eric Bruce, 52nd SFS operations officer.

Senior Airman Josalyn Knight, base security forces information management, said although she wasn't aware she had the choice to wear the beret, she wouldn't because she's not trained to handle the emergencies security forces members respond to regularly.

The change in Air Force SF beret wear policy was made to eliminate some confusion among the base public, according to

“Brig. Gen. James M. Shames, Air Force director of

The wear of the security forces beret also becomes a safety issue. Because it's distinguishable, when people see someone in a beret in an emergency situation they expect that person to be able to respond.

— Capt. Eric Bruce
52nd Security Forces Squadron

security forces, and commander, Air Force Security Forces Center.

“The 1997 policy change was made to address the inclusiveness of all SF unit members, that we are all working toward the goal of force protection — and we are,” Shames

said. “They often thought the beret still represented what it had in the past, that the wearer was an Air Force security forces member, often armed, speaking with the authority of the installation commander.”

Bruce said he agrees the revised policy has people's best interest in mind.

“The wear of the security forces beret also becomes a safety issue,” Bruce said. “Because it's distinguishable, when people see someone in a beret in an emergency situation they expect that person to be able to respond.”

The change only affects military members of security forces units who don't carry the security forces career field specialty code. Installation commanders still have the authority to allow augmentees to wear the beret while performing security forces duties.

“Bottom line, we've reverted to the original beret policy so everyone knows the wearer has the authority and skills to enforce laws and regulations and respond to emergencies,” Shames said. (Localized Air Force Print News article)

Bar bacteria from spoiling holiday by practicing food prep safety tips

By Staff Sgt. Dante Pawa
52nd Medical Group Public Health Flight

The Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holiday season is traditionally a time of family feasts. However, because of unsafe food handling, it's also traditionally a time for food-borne illness.

To ensure the holiday meal remains healthy, here are few tips on how to prepare a turkey.

The primary concern in the care of the holiday feast is to avoid factors that can contribute to bacterial growth. When buying a turkey, ensure it's sell-by date hasn't expired and that the packaging isn't torn.

Bacteria multiply quickly at temperatures between 41-140 degrees Fahrenheit; therefore, keep frozen foods at 0 degrees F or less. To keep frozen foods frozen, place them in the cart last and take them home immediately.

Defrosting

There are three ways to defrost meat products: in the refrigerator, in cold water and in the microwave.

In the refrigerator is the safest method. It's best to plan ahead for slow, safe thawing in the refrigerator. Allow about one day for every five pounds of turkey.

Defrosting a turkey in cold water is another method to use when in a hurry. Keep the turkey in its airtight package or in a leak-proof bag.

Leave the water running or submerge the turkey in cold water, changing the water every 30 minutes to ensure it stays cold.

Thawing meat in a mic-rowave is the least preferred method. Turkey defrosted in the microwave should be cooked immediately after thawing because some areas of the food may become warm and begin to cook during microwaving.

Never defrost meat on the counter. Keep thawed or fresh turkey in a refrigerator. Also, prevent cross-contamination by preventing juices from dripping onto other foods in the refrigerator by placing wrapped turkey on a tray.

Cleaning

Don't let bacteria from raw products get on cooked products or other foods that are ready-to-eat. Completely wash hands, cutting boards, knives, utensils and counters with hot soapy water after handling raw poultry and before handling any other foods.

Use a bleach solution made from one teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water or buy a kitchen safe commercial disinfectant to sanitize areas and prevent contamination of food. Don't use the same plate to carry cooked food from the grill or oven that you used to carry the raw food out. Don't cut vegetables or other foods with the same knife used to cut raw poultry unless it's been thoroughly washed.

Storing leftovers

Taking care of leftovers is also important in preventing foodborne illness. Cut all meat from the bones before storing leftovers. Refrigerate or freeze turkey leftovers immediately after the meal. Public health recommends cooling the turkey to under 40 degrees F within 4 hours after it was cooked.

Refrigerated turkey leftovers should be used within three to seven days. Stuffing and gravy should be used within two days. Turkey leftovers may be frozen for up to a month.

Store turkey, gravy and stuffing in separate containers. All containers should be as small and shallow as possible for quick cooling.

The best and safest way to thaw or defrost frozen leftovers is in the microwave. Reheat the stuffing and turkey to a minimum of 165 degrees F.

Don't let foodborne illness serve as an uninvited guest and spoil your holiday plans. By following these tips, holiday cooks can be glad knowing their family and friends are healthy because the cook prepared a holiday meal that's worth giving thanks.

Call the base public health flight at 452-8328 for more information concerning safe food preparation and storage.

‘Guaranteed loans’ can add up to trouble

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force members recently have become the targets of money lending scams operating out of Canada, according to Federal Trade Commission officials.

These scams, in the form of classified ads in military newspapers, advertise guaranteed loans, regardless of income or credit history, and charge a significant up-front fee before the loan can be processed — a practice which is illegal, according to Donna Miles, Office of Consumer and Business Education.

Legitimate lenders don't require up-front payments before extending credit and they don't promise loans in their ads, Miles said.

People who do respond to the toll-free number in these ads are instructed to send a money order along with their loan application, she said.

“Most of these (people) don't realize they are calling and writing to Canada,” she said. “The scam artists use toll-free numbers and typically have their mail routed through one or more U.S.-based mail drops.”

These “loan agents” have no loans to offer, Miles said. They cash the money orders they receive and destroy the paperwork or use it to further the scam.

“In some cases, (the scam artists) use the information to commit identity theft,” she warns. They access the person's credit cards or open accounts in their names without the consumer's permission or knowledge by using the information included as part of the loan application such as Social Security number, date of birth and other personal data.

The Federal Trade Commission cautions consumers to be aware of certain slogans that often identify a deceptive ad.

These slogans include:

■ \$100 to \$10,000 with just your signature.

■ Loans guaranteed regardless of poor credit history or low income.

Air Force members are also reminded if the offer, promotion, payoff or benefit sounds too good to be true, then it most likely is, officials said.

Improvement projects begin at desert base soon after members of AEF 2 start arriving

By Capt. Brenda Campbell
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs



New improvement projects at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, begin soon after Air Expeditionary Force 2 members arrive.

Members rotating to the base continually see construction as the 363rd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron completes and starts new improvement projects around the desert base.

Civil engineers work with six-month periods at a time, according to Capt. Toney Riley, 363rd ECES member from Spangdahlem Air Base. The unit is currently completing many of the projects from the first six months of the year.

"We're now starting to establish contracts for the current six-month projects," he said.

A huge project expected to begin in about two weeks is the repaving of the main roads leading into the base. The three-phase project affects everyone working on the main

base, Riley said.

Following a site visit by the contractor, repaving begins at First and A streets, according to 1st Lt. Majken Jadwin, 363rd ECES. The first and second phase affects the inbound and outbound lanes on A Street, which runs from Al's Garage to the corner of fire station two.

"While the contractor paves one side of the road, traffic will be detoured onto the shoulder," Jadwin said.

He cautions drivers to pay attention at the bridge, as traffic will be one-way, alternating across the bridge.

"Drivers should treat it like they do the serpentine," she said. "Flagmen will be out during the day to direct traffic."

While the contract is still being negotiated, Jadwin said the plan is to perform most of the work at night to impact the least amount of people.

Phase three of the project covers First Avenue, which runs in front of the hospital. At the last entry control point at the main base entrance, traffic will be detoured around old tent city.

Another project slated is re-paving PSAB One, Jadwin

said. The stretch of road from the tower to the entrance of Maintenance City will be paved.

"Since the shoulders aren't big enough, we're developing a detour road alongside PSAB One for traffic to use during the project," she said.

One of the more anticipated and visible projects currently underway is the development of Central Park in the Coalition Complex. Situated on the west side of the complex near the soccer field, the park will include three additional pavilions, tennis courts and a new latrine trailer. The pavilions will have lights, power and tables.

"It's a place where units can gather and have outdoor functions," Riley said. Construction is expected to be complete by early February.

While not slated for the next six months, a long-term goal for the 363rd ECES is to move everyone out of tents and into trailers or pre-fabricated buildings.

"We want to make the work and living environment the best it can be," Riley said. "It will all come together in time."

PSAB Boot Hill

'Cemetery' attraction myth prevents return trip for fuels troops



By Capt. Liza Barreto
363rd Air Expeditionary Supply Squadron

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Southwest Asia — Boot Hill Cemetery, located in Tombstone, Ariz., has always been a tourist attraction, drawing people from around the United States.

However, for the last few years, Prince Sultan Air Base's Boot Hill Cemetery has quietly been attracting attention of its own. It's even become a stop on the tours for some of the distinguished visitors passing through.

Located off the beaten path in the fuels main bulk storage area, Boot Hill Cemetery is exactly that, a cemetery for boots. Local legend has it if fuels troops bury their boots there before leaving PSAB, they'll never have to return. With the prospect of not returning to PSAB on the line, superstitions about Boot Hill run high and one glance tells visitors a lot of care has gone into constructing and maintaining the area.

Boot Hill is more than just a pile of boots in the desert. It looks more like the set of an old Halloween haunted hayride put on by a local civic club. Walking up to it, the first thing people see is an old picket fence. Upon entering the cemetery, people note the small rocks and old fuel hoses arranged to carefully mark the paths leading to the elaborate



Courtesy photo

Prince Sultan Air Base Boot Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 200 pairs of boots and other 4404th Wings fuels management flight memorabilia.

crosses, tombstones, a plywood chapel toward the back and of course, boots — more than 200 pairs.

Although the exact origin of the cemetery is questionable, it is known members of the

4404th Wing fuels management flight constructed the original back when the 4404th was located in Dhahran Air Base. When the wing moved to Prince Sultan after the Khobar Towers explosion, Boot Hill moved with it. The entire cemetery was left

in a pile for a few months until somebody in the fuels section once again set it up and began to maintain it. Burials have taken place there ever since.

Walking through the cemetery leads visitors past various graves, but the most special graves are reserved for the petroleum, oil and lubricants fuels managers who are now here for one year. According to one source, "As you bury your boots, you turn and walk straight out, never looking back. Rumor has it if you look back after burying your boots, you'll return to PSAB."

So, the big question is, has it actually worked? Have people ever returned to PSAB after burying their boots?

Not one person currently assigned to the fuels management flight had previously buried their boots there. There are, however, several airmen who didn't perform the ceremony properly and have returned.

Many of the markers in the cemetery have writing on them leaving reminders about the people who have been here before. There are tributes to wives who endure long deployments, poems about PSAB and even a mass grave with what looks to be at least 50 pairs of desert boots lying in a pile.

Visitors are welcome to visit the cemetery, but people must be a POL member or honorary member to bury boots there. Everyone else . . . well, they'll have to take their chances. (Air Force News Service courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)



Community Mailbox

Family support center news

■ Sponsor training takes place in building 307 each first and third Thursday of the month.

■ A home-buying seminar takes place at 6 p.m. Tuesday in building 2001 on Bitburg.

Call the Spangdahlem FSC at 452-6143 or Bitburg at 453-7491 to register for classes or for details.

High school play

Bitburg High School's drama club presents, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Dec. 1-3.

This one-act play tells the story of the efforts of a woman and her husband to put on the annual church Christmas pageant, despite having to cast the horrible Herdman children - possibly the meanest, nastiest, awful children in the history of the world.

Show times are 7 p.m. Dec. 1, 2 p.m. Dec. 2 and 4 p.m. Dec. 3 in the high school. For more information, call Yasmin Bassut at 453-7937.

PTA meeting

Bitburg Elementary School's Parent, Teacher Association holds a meeting at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 in the school library.

High school concert

Bitburg High School's music department presents, "Holiday Har-mony," at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the cafeteria.

Spouse tuition assistance

The education center accepts spouse tuition assistance applications for Term III, Jan. 15 through March 9. Applications are available at the center or in the Spangdahlem post office.

The deadline to submit is Dec. 15. For more information, call the education center at 452-6063.

Tutors, mentors

Bitburg High School seeks volunteers to act as tutors and mentors for the school year.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Armando's wish

First Lt. Sean Gustafson (center), 23rd Fighter Squadron, shows Armando Rodriguez (right) an F-16 during a base visit Oct. 31. Members of the 23rd FS treated Rodriguez to a squadron orientation, a photo session with unit aircraft, meetings with pilots and a flightline tour. Rodriguez, who has cerebral palsy, was treated to the visit requested by his cousin, a 52nd Medical Group nurse, to fulfill the 33-year-old's wish to see an F-16 up close.

For more information or to volunteer, call Bernadette Young, school volunteer coordinator, at 453-7202 or 452-7938.

Naming contest

The Spangdahlem Chapel sponsors a naming and logo design contest for its three-wheeled vehicle. Submit designs and names to Chaplains (Majs.) Karl Wiersum or Patrick Ryan by Monday.

Winners get a free dinner for four at the Simonbrau Restaurant in Bitburg. Call the Spangdahlem Chapel at 452-6711 for details.

Volunteers needed

■ For the Holiday Mini-Bazaar taking place Dec. 1-3 in the Spangdahlem

community center.

■ For the Bitburg tree lighting ceremony and reception taking place at 6 p.m. Dec. 6.

■ For the Spangdahlem parade, tree lighting ceremony and reception taking place at various times and locations Dec. 7.

To volunteer for any of these events, call Jake Jacobs at 452-7381.

Adopt-a-cop

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron accepts applications for students in 5th-8th grade to participate in the adopt-a-cop program. The program is designed to enhance relations between security forces members and the community and

subsequently prevent and curtail juvenile crimes.

Call Senior Airman Samson McCoy at 452-6120 for details.

Education center news

■ The University of Maryland offers two additional classes during its Term 2 schedule. Introduction to computer applications takes place Saturday and Sunday; and introduction to Web page design takes place Dec. 2 and 3. Call 452-6637 or 0656561-6637 Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register.

Call the base education office 452-6063 for more information.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Tonight

The Contender (R)

Saturday

A Goofy Movie (G, 10 a.m.)
The Rugrats Movie (G, 11:30 a.m.)
Muppet Treasure Island (G, 1 p.m.)
Flipper (PG, 2:30 p.m.)
The Contender (R)

Sunday

A Goofy Movie (G, 10 a.m.)
The Rugrats Movie (G, 11:30 a.m.)
Muppet Treasure Island (G, 1 p.m.)
Flipper (PG, 2:30 p.m.)
Space Cowboys (PG-13)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Autumn in New York (PG-13)

Thursday

What Lies Beneath (PG-13)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Tonight

Bedazzled (PG-13)

Saturday

Toy Story (G, 10 a.m.)
Toy Story 2 (G, 11:45 a.m.)
Doug's 1st Movie (G, 1:30 p.m.)
My Favorite Martian (PG, 3:15 p.m.)
Bedazzled (PG-13)

Sunday

Toy Story (G, 10 a.m.)
Toy Story 2 (G, 11:45 a.m.)
Doug's 1st Movie (G, 1:30 p.m.)
My Favorite Martian (PG, 3:15 p.m.)
Bring it On (PG-13)

Monday

Godzilla 2000 (PG)

Tuesday

Hollow Man (R)

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 453-7541.

Ceremonial lighting of advent wreath marks German winter holiday season

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Knowing when the Christmas season starts and ends in Germany will help people better enjoy the European-style of the holiday.

The four Sundays of Advent, a Catholic tradition, mark the beginning of the Christmas celebration and with it the beginning of the church year. Advent, which has existed in the Western church since the sixth century, was originally a time for fasting and prayer. Today, Advent has become the time when families prepare for Christmas.

About this time, Christmas markets spring to life and the stores stay open longer the four Saturdays before the holiday, giving people more time for their Christmas shopping.

Advent bazaars are also typical of the season. Many local towns and villages sell Christmas related art and handicrafts inside community halls. Sankt Nikolaus also visits with the children to see if they were good.

Home-baked Christmas goodies are also a sign Christmas in Germany is just around the corner.

A distinctive symbol of Christmas in Germany is the traditional Advent wreath, which became popular in northern



Iris Reiff

A typical German advent wreath is made up of fir branches and four candles.

Germany soon after World War I. Since the 1930s, it's become popular throughout Germany.

The wreath is made with four candles, one of which is lit on each Sunday of Advent until all four are burning together.

The first candle is lit Dec. 3 during church services and at people's homes. Some people pray and sing Christmas

carols after lighting the candles.

Because advent wreath materials are flammable, people should use caution when lighting the candles and place the wreath away from other flammable items.

The Christmas season ends with Epiphany Day, Jan. 6, which signifies the arrival of the Three Holy Kings.

Out and about



■ Visit a flea market, Sunday at the Mayen MHT hall 3, near the local Water Tower, in front of the Zweibrücken N'auerbach Neukauf store and inside the Saarbrücken-Buehlingen market square.

■ Enjoy Hip-Hop, Free Style and House by DJ Urkel, 8 p.m. Saturday at the Beilungen Costa Marbella Gasthaus.

■ The village of Auw, located near Speicher hosts a Christmas holiday bazaar 3-6 p.m. Saturday and 2-6 p.m. Sunday in the community hall. Coffee and cake is offered 2 p.m. Sunday. A raffle takes place 5 p.m.

■ See an art exhibition with color, acrylic and oil paintings by Wilma Werwie at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Speicher Rathaus or city hall.

■ Join the German-American Friendship Club on a trip to the Metz-France Christmas market Dec. 17. Cost is 30 DM per person. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the Speicher Rathaus or city hall and returns at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Gisela Traut at 452-6172.

■ Attend the Spangdahlem Gospel choir concert Dec. 2 at the GaytalPark Zentrum. For more information and tickets, call 06566-96900.

■ Attend "Spreading the

Gospel," presented by Black Gospel Singers 8 p.m. Dec. 12 in the former Bitburg Airbase Hall 300. Call 06727-952333 for tickets.

■ See the "Magic of the Dance," a professional tap dancing show, 8 p.m. Sunday, at the Trier Europa hall.

■ Listen to a jazz concert by Jan Garbarek 8 p.m. Sunday at the Trier St. Maximin church.

■ Enjoy Klezmer Folk music by Kol Simcha 8 p.m. Monday at the Trier St. Maximin church.

■ Attend a classical Christmas concert 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Trier's Roman Basilica. The concert will be performed by the Trier Bach choir.

■ A jazz concert by the EuroCore takes place 8:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Trier Tuchfabrik cultural center, located on Weberbach, Wechselstrasse.

■ Plan to participate in the 41st International Nikolaus March of Niederkail Dec. 3. The event is a 10-kilometer walk through the Kailbach valley.

■ Reserve your ticket now for this year's Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band at the Bitburg Edith-Stein School. Entry is 12 DM for adults or 8 DM for children and students. Members of the Bitburg Cultural Society pay 10 DM to get in. To reserve a ticket, call the

Bitburg Cultural Society at 06561-6001-144 or 145 or the Bitburg tourist information office at 06561-9434-0.

■ "Christmas Moments" comes to the Bitburg Edith-Stein School at 8 p.m. Dec. 23. Tickets are 48 DM and can be obtained at 06561-6001-144 or 145.

■ Enjoy "Extraordinary Living Styles," Tuesday through Dec. 10 in the small Dudeldorf art pavilion. The display opens 2-6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

■ Listen to a mutual concert by the Spangdahlem and Dudeldorf-Ordorf music associations at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Spangdahlem village community hall.

■ Barclay James Harvest & Guest performs in the Saarburg city hall Dec. 1. Tickets can be obtained at 0651-9941188.

■ The Eifel Wanderers invite people to join them on a local volksmarch Dec. 3. Meet at the Spangdahlem Middle School at 9 a.m. and caravan to Landscheid to take part in a 10-kilometer Nikolaus volk-march. For more information, call David Westwood at 06561-18758.

■ Listen to folk music by the Dubliners Thursday in the Mannheim Rosengarten-Musen hall. For tickets, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Presse Center at 0651-

14599-0.

■ See an exhibition of Christmas nativities Dec. 1-12 in the Alte Muehle or Old Mill of the Himmerod Abbey.

...

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in November and December. Call the Spangdahlem community center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■ Köln Christmas market, Saturday, \$25 for adults and \$20 for children ages 3-12; departs Spangdahlem at 8 a.m. and Bitburg at 8:30 a.m.

■ Rothenburg Christmas market, Dec. 2, \$39 for adults and \$35 for children ages 3-12, departs Spangdahlem at 6:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 7 a.m.

■ Valkenburg Christmas market, Dec. 9, \$29 for adults and \$25 for children ages 3-12, departs Spangdahlem at 8:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 9 a.m.

■ Nuernburg Christmas market, Dec. 9, \$39 for adults and \$35 for children ages 3-12, departs Spangdahlem at 6:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 7 a.m.

■ Strasbourg Christmas market, Dec. 16, \$30 for adults and \$28 for children ages 3-12, departs

Spangdahlem at 7 a.m. and Bitburg at 7:30 a.m.

■ Munich Christmas market, \$69 for adults and \$59 for children ages 3-12, departs Spangdahlem at 1:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 2 a.m.

...

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in December. Outdoor recreation is no longer open during the weekend. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 452-7176 for details.

■ Indoor wall-climbing trip Dec. 2. Gear and transportation are included in the \$25 per person fee. Minimum age to participate is 14.

■ Christmas caves of Valkenburg, Holland, Dec. 9. Transportation and castle entry are included in the \$20 per person price. Minimum age to participate is 18.

■ Underground mountain biking Dec. 10. Transportation, cave entry, helmet and light rental are all included in the cost of \$30 for biking only or \$50 with two hours in the spa.

■ Hike the walled village of Rothenburg Dec. 16 and 17. Transportation, guided hike, night watchman's tour and one-night lodging are included in the \$65 per person price. Minimum age to participate is 18.